

THE AGAWAM 25¢

ADVERTISER/NEWS

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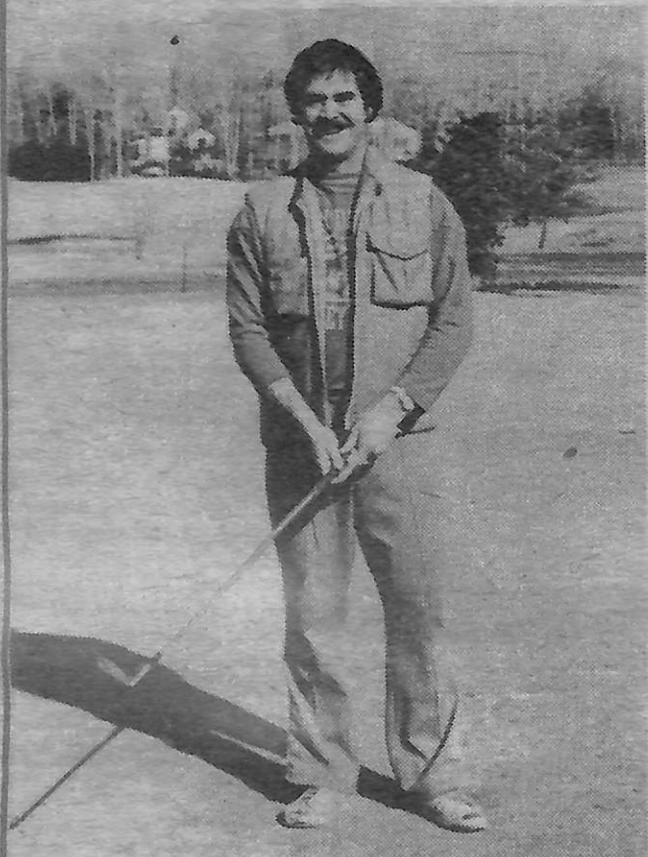
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Volume IV, Number 7.

Agawam's Hometown Newspaper

February 19, 1981

It's Golf Time?



Gary Dineen, a sportscaster for WGGB TV-40, who also is employed at Oak Ridge Country Club, was busy this week as balmy temperatures in the 60's brought out many of the local club circuit to picturesque Feeding Hills golf course for unusual February activity. Oak Ridge opened last weekend for play. Photo by Jack Devine.

Bowen

2½ No Factor On Water

By Stephen Gazillo

Town Manager Richard Bowen said today he would have advocated an increase in user-fee rates for the town's water and sewer systems "even if Proposition 2 1/2 had not passed last November."

Bowen said his past record clearly demonstrates his view that utility operations should be funded primarily by the users and not subsidized by property taxes.

Bowen charged that recent statements by members of the community saying that the proposed rate increases are an attempt to circumvent the limiting effects of Proposition 2 1/2 by robbing from "Peter to pay Paul" are displaying a "trite, specious way of ignoring the economics of operating the water and sewage system."

According to Bowen, the Water Department is not operating with a huge surplus, as suggested by former councilor Valentine Moreno, and the sewer system is heavily financed with property tax revenues.

Bowen proposes a full cost allocation system as a means of determining expenses to run the departments, and a payment system whereby costs are borne by the users in proportion to benefits they receive.

The report of Town Accountant Carol Taylor on the Water Department's financial conditions indicates that it will incur a deficit balance of \$6,244.35 for fiscal 1981, a figure that would rise considerably if all costs associated with the water system are fully allocated, Bowen said.

See Fees, Page 4

Theroux Calls Rheault Removal "A Political One"

The replacement of Councilor Donald Rheault as chairman of the Route 57 sub-committee by Council President Paul Fieldstad and Council Vice-President William Herd has sparked charges from Councilor Richard Theroux that the move was motivated by political factors.

Ollari Ruling

Theroux' attempt to have Fieldstad and Herd reconsider the replacement of Rheault with Councilor John Bartnik on the important sub-committee was hindered by a ruling from Town Attorney Lambert Ollari that the council president has the power to change a committee chairman in mid-term.

Rheault was named by Fieldstad and Herd as Route 57 chairman one year ago. Rheault was also active on the committee during two terms on the council from 1973-1977.

According to Theroux, Ollari's decision that the council president could change a standing committee chairman in mid-term was not in accordance with past council protocol and was not in accordance with the Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Theroux, a former council president for five years, told councilors during a lively 30-minute debate that the council leadership's removal of Rheault was unprecedented since the inception of the council/manager charter 10 years ago.

Theroux said that the records plainly reveal former council presidents' Julio Alvirgini and Benjamin Lockhart only changed budget subcommittee chairmen at the beginning of each new year.

"Standing committees such as Route 57 were never replaced during mid-term," Theroux said in reference to Rheault's removal with approximately one year remaining in his current term.

According to both Fieldstad and Herd, the Rheault removal was spurred by complaints from Route 57 sub-committee members Bartnik and Walter T. Kerr that Rheault failed to hold meetings and inform com-

mittee members of the progress of the regional Route 57 Task Force where Rheault represented the community.

Not Political

Herd said that the decision to remove Rheault was made before January 1, thus implying that Theroux' claim that the action was politically motivated was false.

Herd said the decision to replace Rheault with Bartnik was one in a long line of committee assignments by the council leadership.

Several weeks ago Rheault led an attempt to replace Fieldstad and Herd in the council leadership with Stephen Cincotta as president and he as vice-president.

The attempt failed on an 8-6 vote and has been the catalyst of additional dissension on the council.

The two council leaders called Rheault's conduct as a Task Force member outstanding.

Rheault recently charged the council leadership as playing political games with the chairmanship of the subcommittee and strongly criticized the appointment of Bartnik as committee chairman.

According to Councilor Robert DeForge, chairmanships of committees have been changed in the past by former council presidents despite Theroux' statements.

Councilor Andrew C. Gallano said Ollari's ruling should be abided by despite his support for Rheault. He said Fieldstad need not defend himself on a decision that was entirely his prerogative.

Theroux called the action as unfortunate for the council and the community based on Rheault's knowledge and expertise on Route 57.

As for the political factors he earlier charged, Theroux concluded, "Believe me, Councilor Rheault and I have not been the best of friends in the past as you well know so he's not one of my buddies I'm sticking up for."

"I just can't help wonder why this was done."

Heritage Honors Hostage Kin



Scotty Mushrush (sister of colonel Charles Scott, former hostage of Iran), was presented with a floral arrangement by Alice Milbier, a resident of Heritage Hall Nursing Home West Building. Mrs. Mushrush and her daughter, Sue Ellen, were guests at a Welcoming Tea held monthly by the Activity Department. Photo by Jack Devine.

EDITORIAL COMMENT...

Open Meeting Law Jeopardized

By Joanne Brown

Following adjournment of a brief, routine meeting of the School Committee last Tuesday evening, Chairman Walter Balboni reported the findings of Attorney John Teahan on a prior request for an executive session "to air board members' differences and attempt to iron out some problems among individual board members."

Balboni reported Teahan's ruling that an executive session for this reason would be illegal, but that "informal discussion on non school related business" might be held for any members who chose to remain after adjournment.

While acknowledging respect for Teahan's judgement, Balboni strongly questioned the legality of such an "informal discussion." He had consulted another attorney who warned him that such a meeting could not be legally held in closed session.

Mrs. Venetta Snyder, who had originally requested the executive session, restated her desire to sit down and talk about "outbursts" from individual board members that have occurred in recent meetings. She, along with Richard Borgatti, insisted that such an "informal discussion" among all seven board members right there in the Conference Room would not be a "meeting" because no deliberations leading to action would occur.

Balboni reported that Teahan had stated that representatives of the public may only be requested to leave, but that he (Balboni) did not know what could be done if they refused to go. For various reasons, this

reporter along with one other individual in attendance declined to leave the gathering.

Our refusal to leave was greeted with pointed, most unprofessional-type remarks, but the eventual outcome was that no closed session took place; in fact, no discussion at all took place.

Mrs. Snyder, still unwilling to give in, again requested an executive session despite the fact that School Committee Attorney Teahan had just ruled such a session illegal. She then declared, "Because we obviously cannot do this here, I am leaving and I invite any member of the School Committee to my private home to discuss whatever we wish."

Mrs. Snyder repeatedly insisted that such an invitation was not "circumventing the law," but merely giving members the right to say whatever they wanted without regard for who else was hearing their comments.

The Open Meeting Law clearly delineates seven acceptable reasons for executive session, and nowhere among those seven is one which can include the matter of duly elected town officials discussing their own performance in office, which is the situation in this request. Such differences of opinion need not be brought to the entire committee at all, but rather might be handled between the individuals involved.

The majority of the School Committee should be commended for not attempting to circumvent the law last Tuesday evening, even though, for some of them, the principal reason they did not was apparently because representatives of the public refused to leave the gathering!

Related Editorial P. 9

Gallano Affirms No Water Dept. Surplus

Town Accountant Carol Taylor, appearing before Town Council at the request of Councilor Andrew C. Gallano, has clarified statements that indicated that the town's Water Department was a self-sufficient operation, Councilor Gallano said today.

Refuted Statements

While undergoing questioning by Gallano at a recent council meeting, Miss Taylor refuted statements issued by former councilor Valentine Moreno that said "the Water Department had a surplus for the past five years averaging \$200,000 a year as proof that the system is self-sufficient."

Gallano said that Miss Taylor's comments to the council have served to "clear-up some of the recent confusion caused by Moreno."

In the past several weeks Moreno has lashed out at Town Manager Richard Bowen for proposing large hikes in fees for water and sewer used by homeowners and the business community.

Town Council tabled the proposed increases until the new budget is reviewed by April.

According to Gallano, the situation has been confused by statements which are misleading the public. He said that "in no way is the Water Department self-sufficient."

"I think Miss Taylor's report was sufficient enough," Gallano said. "It certainly proved that irresponsible statements from people trying to confuse the issue are incorrect," he added.

Does Not Exist

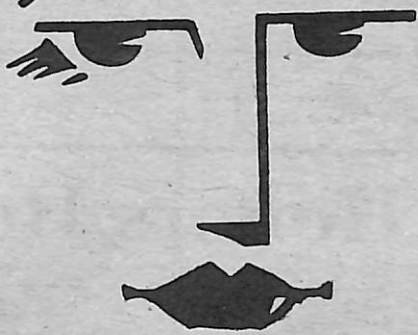
Gallano also noted that Moreno's charge that there exists a \$400,000 surplus in the Water Department "just does not exist."

Gallano, who was elected to the council in January, said that the request by Bowen and DPW Superintendent John Stone to increase the water rates was to place the Water Department on a self-sustaining basis.

"I believe the word self-sustaining is the key. Right now, there is no way, according to the figures presented by Miss Taylor, that the Water Department can pay for itself," Gallano stated.

"We had this program laid out before us by the administration and the council has laid it on the table to discuss the fees at a later date. It's not serving anyone in the community by trying to confuse the issue," he concluded.

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Council Again Tables Bowen Request For Security Fees

For the second consecutive time, Town Council has postponed a recommendation from Town Manager Richard Bowen that would charge businesses \$100 for security alarms connected to the Police Department's monitoring system.

Two False Alarms

The council's unanimous vote also postponed a proposed \$25 fee for each false alarm caused by businesses and homeowners with the security systems. The proposal would allow each business and home with security systems two false alarms per year before being assessed the fee.

According to reports from Police Chief Stanley Chmielewski, approximately 85-90 percent of all private security alarms in the community are false alarms.

Most councilors seemed in agreement with Bowen's false alarm fee that would be retroactive to February 1st, but several councilors questioned the \$100 alarm hook-up with the police monitoring system.

The council asked Bowen to conduct further research on the fees, including a request by Councilor Robert DeForge to determine how many false alarms occur in the community each year and requests by Councilor Donald Rheault to determine if the fees are a referendable item, if the council can make the fees retroactive, and if Bowen must present the fees in the form of an ordinance.

Councilor Richard Theroux served as Bowen's main voice of support. Theroux noted that charging the business community the installation and false alarm fee represents "fixing the cost of the service we provide for the business community."

"We are supposed to be serving the public at-large. This is a good service we provide. The fees are not exorbitant and will cut down in areas of excess. The way it stands now, false alarms are taking away from the police and fire who are suppose to be serving the public at-large," Theroux said.

According to Bowen, the private security link-up with the police must be considered a selective service. He noted that the cost of connecting with a private monitoring system would be much higher than the system in the Police Department.

It's A Bargain

"If someone in the community does not like the fee then the individual should find someone else who will do it for a lower price. I think the charge we are proposing is a bargain."

Bowen said police statistics reveal that 100 businesses use the department's monitoring system.

Bowen noted that the \$25 false alarm fee would only be assessed per site and not for each alarm that may be generated at a location that possesses a multiple alarm system.

Fees, from Page 1

Moreno has stated the Water Department has a surplus in excess of \$400,000, but Bowen said the figures in Miss Taylor's report do not indicate that.

"Our present system of allocating costs is one where expenses shown are not an adequate reflection of costs to run the system," he stated.

Bowen continued, "Right now, we have artificially low rates for the water and sewer system, which will mean the deterioration of that system. They are political rates, and all you're doing is mortgaging the future. If, as a community Agawam can't face up to the realities of what it costs to provide water and sewer services, what the devil can it face up to."

Bowen said his proposed rate increases are in compliance with Proposition 2 1/2, which states that user charges can be imposed, but only to the extent that they reflect costs.

He added that the requirements of Proposition 2 1/2 make it more necessary than ever to raise the water and sewer rates, but that what is more important is for Town Council to develop a policy toward water and sewer rates to determine how the costs of running the system should be met.

Town Council has tabled the proposed increases, which would raise the water user fee by 125 percent and sewer sanitation fees by 50 percent over current levels. The council will review the proposed increase during the budget review process in April.

Library Books Missing

During the past five months, hundreds of library books and records have been borrowed by citizens of Agawam and have been illegally held by them well beyond the date due. A total of \$1,155 in fines has been assessed for the overdue books by the Library Department.

A review of the records of the Town Collector, who has assumed the responsibility of collecting town property, indicates that the Chief Librarian has placed a value of \$4,566 on the "missing" books.

According to Town Collector David Gallano, "It appears that some taxpayers are supplementing their private home libraries with town funds to the tune of over \$10,000 per year." Gallano indicated that this has apparently been going on for some years.

He explained that last September the chief librarian had requested aid from his office in eliminating patrons not returning books to the library and in collecting fines due.

According to Gallano, final notices of delinquency have been mailed to all offenders. The next collection process will be appearances of the violators before the Small Claims Court. Proceedings for final collection by the court will begin in March.

The Town Collector is authorized and committed, under the General Laws of the state, to collect all monies due the town by any and all legal methods available to his office. He indicated that he will proceed with the next collection phase.

Gallano warns the offending parties that there is still some time left in the month of February to make good on returning the books or records to his office and paying the fines due. If the articles are no longer available, then the cost of the item must be paid in place of the fine.

"The adoption of Proposition 2 1/2 requires the town to reduce real estate taxes," Gallano declared, "but the failure of some of the library users to return town property only tends to increase taxes to all homeowners."

He continued, "Let it be understood that parents are responsible for payment of books and fines that are attributable to their children."

Farm Facility Loans Available

Area farmers who have inadequate on-farm storage facilities for their crops may be eligible for loans to buy, build or remodel such facilities. The Hampden County Office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is currently accepting applications in the Farm Facility Loan Program.

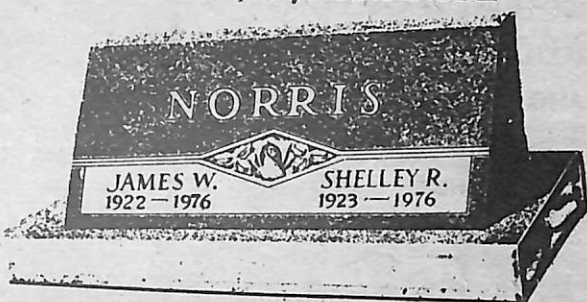
Eligible structures include conventional grain bins, corn cribs as well as upright and bunker type silos for the storage of high moisture grain or silage. Need for the storage structures is based on two years' production of the applicable crops, minus existing storage capacity.

The maximum loan is 85% of the cost of the structure and equipment. The remaining 15% of the cost must be paid in cash by the farmer before the loan is disbursed. Security for the loans involved a lien on the facility and equipment in all cases.

The loan repayment term allows for a maximum of seven equal annual installments over a period of eight years. Pre-payment may be made at any time without penalty.

Farmers who are interested in this program are asked to contact the Hampden County ASCS office for more information. It is located at 1499 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield. Telephone: 732-5215.

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9A.M. - 8 P.M. Thurs. & Fri.

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For Senior Citizens... New Beginnings

By Rita White

Is it too much to hope for? Is spring really around the corner? With this warm weather, optimist that I am, I have already hung up my winter coat (knowing in my heart that I'll probably need it again before spring actually gets through the door).

The Senior Center still has opening for the legal clinic which is held the last Thursday of every month. This month's is February 26th between 1 and 3 p.m. Attorney Rene Thomas has been more than terrific, giving of his time now for well over a year to provide this free legal counseling. He talks to each person privately and will handle all manners of legal business, wills, or whatever. If you would like to see him, please call the center and make an appointment. Ask for Dorothy or Margarete at 786-0400, ext. 242.

We want to wish a happy birthday to Anna Kane on her 84th birthday. Anna came to Agawam six years ago from Fitchburg. She has one daughter and two sons.

Happy birthday also to Mary Fasali on her 71st. Mary was born here in Agawam and has two daughters. We hope you both have a happy day.

Agawam Golden Agers held their regular meeting on February 11th. Despite the bad weather, there was a record crowd. The highlight of the evening was grocery Bingo with cute Valentine gifts for prizes.

The trip planned to Chateau DeVillie has been changed from March 29th to April 5th. There are still plenty of seats available so get your reservations in.

On March 19th, there will be a trip to the Red Coach Grill in Hartford for lunch and then shopping at the West Farms Mall. You know this is a good time of year to find some winter bargains to put away for next year.

Much fun was had on the trip to Greⁿfield. Top honors go to Emaline Comeau, our travel lady, who plans such great trips.

Don't forget the next regular meeting on February 25th. The entertainment for that meeting is still a MYSTERY. Don't miss it.

Some good lunches coming up next week. Main courses featured will be turkey on the 23rd, corned beef hash on the 24th, pork patties on the 25th, chicken on the 26th, and fish croquettes on the 27th. Not a bad buy for 60¢. Why not give it a try?

Well, I'm sure it's the talk of the town by now, but in case you haven't heard about it yet, the Valentine party at the Senior Center was the affair of the season. No party is complete without appropriate decorations and the center was right up to par on that. Special napkins and all. After a great lunch, there was music and a lot of dancing. And what is a party without door prizes? C. Bordon and Marion Haubenrieser were the lucky winners.

Newlyweds Louise & Fred Vogt and Dorothy & William Keeley were honored with a sweetheart waltz.

Lee Fait and Sam Provost and Virgrido and Daisy Pescetta won the waltz contest. Dorothy and William Kane and Mary Melin and her partner Ann won the Foxtrot contest. Edith Graham and Alma Kendall won the two-step and the only couple on the floor for the rhumba was Dorothy Bassell and Jessie Boss.

But the highlight of the whole affair was the last dance of the day. What a surprise when good old stripper music played. And lo and behold, there were two strippers. Featured as Dodie and Mitzie. They had put on all the extra clothing that was for sale at the center and then proceeded to strip to the music. When Dodie took off her pants, everyone expected the place to be raided. But all good, clean fun. A hat was passed and \$8 collected for the brave dancers. But not wanting to pay taxes, they donated their money to the center.

Obviously, everyone had a super time. If you missed this party, make sure you don't miss the next one. Go on down to the Senior Center and see what they have for you. There is fun for everyone.

The center would like to announce a Colon Cancer Detection Clinic to be held on Thursday, March 12th. On Wednesday, March 11th, a public health nurse will speak to senior citizens after lunch to describe the test, how it is taken and to stress the importance of it. Kits will be distributed. Due to the nutritional requirements that go along with the test, the Senior Center will provide a special menu for the week of March 16th in order to oblige those individuals taking the test. This is a very important clinic and you are urged to attend.

There are also still some openings for the Health Screening clinic February 24th. Don't miss this opportunity for a free health checkup. Call the Senior Center and make an appointment.

A forsythia sprig in her hair,
New green leaves for a gown.
An orchestra of robins sing
As Spring arrives in town.

Rita White

Pre-Retirement Seminar Series Set

The Council of Churches of Greater Springfield in cooperation with the YMCA and YWCA will co-sponsor a Pre-Retirement Seminar Series to be open to the general public.

The seminar will be held for six consecutive Tuesday nights beginning March 3rd at 7 p.m. at the Council offices, 152 Sumner Avenue, Springfield. The cost of the course is \$40 per individual or \$45 per couple. The fee covers cost of materials and supplies.

The format of the seminars will use materials prepared by Action for Independent Maturity. The topics will be as follows:

March 3 - Challenge of Retirement; March 10 - Health and Safety; March 17 - Housing and Location; March 24 - Legal Affairs; March 31 - Attitude and Role Adjustment, Meaningful Use of Time; April 7 - Sources of Income and Financial Planning.

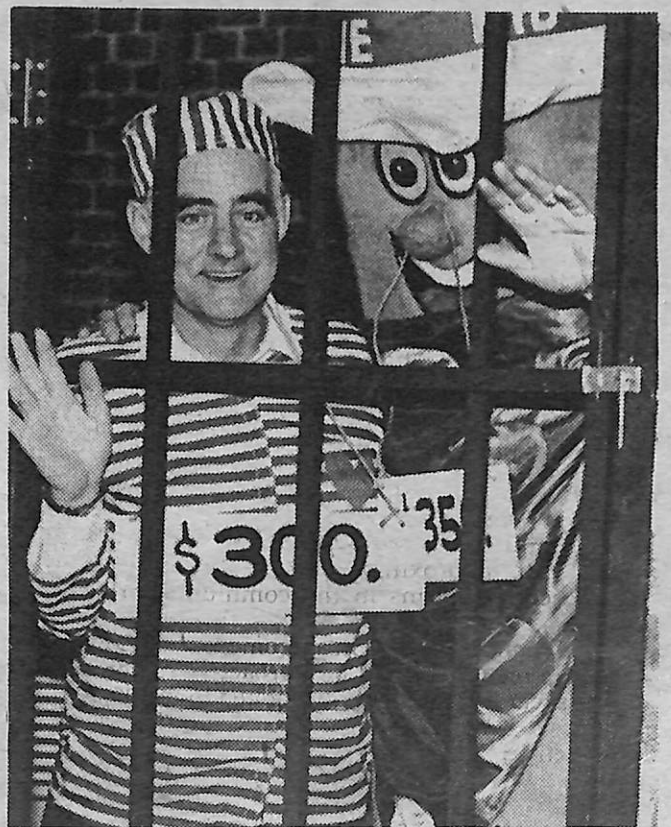
Pre-registration is necessary and can be accomplished by calling 733-2149. Pre-payment for the series is necessary.

WSC Chorale To Perform At UMass

The Westfield State College Chorale has been chosen to perform at the Massachusetts Music Educators Conference at UMass on March 13th. The announcement of this selection cited the group's "musical excellence" for its basis.

For area residents who would like a preview of the UMass performance, the Chorale will perform on March 6th at 8 p.m. in the Bates Recital Hall on the college campus in a concert open to the public at no charge.

Devine In Jail!



We've heard that Jack Devine, our staff photographer felt right at home when he was placed in jail last week at BayState West for the Western Mass. Heart Association fund drive. Devine, well known around police circles, managed to raise his \$300 bail. Photo by Cathy Devine.

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John B. O'Brien, Jr. T.J. O'Brien John F. O'Brien

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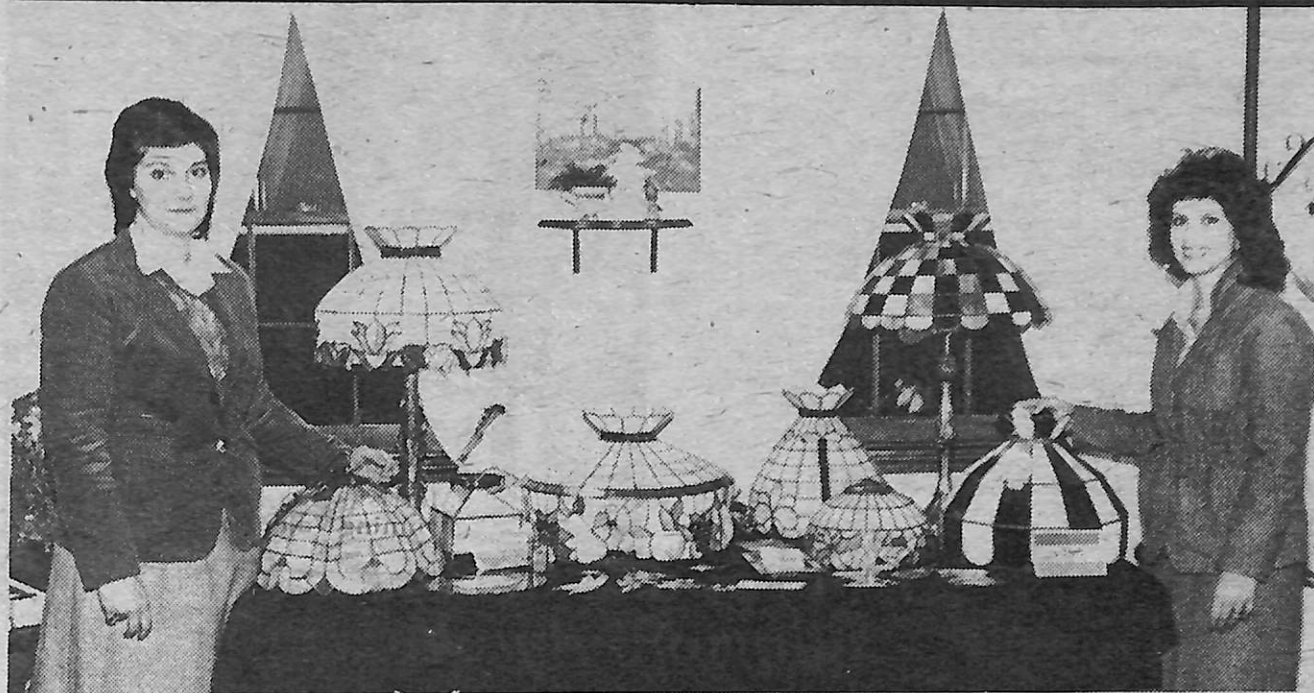
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SOCIAL



Marie Kellogg, left, served as hostess for a Tiffany Lamp party at her Colemore Street, Feeding Hills home. At right, Joanne Malone of Legacy of Tiffany shows off some of her fine merchandise. Photo by Jack Devine.

Whether you're interested in the Ring of Flowers, the Mini-Fleur-de-Lis, or the popular Summer Fruit and Bird pattern, all these and many more styles can be shown to you in the comfort of your home by local Legacy of Tiffany representative Joanne Malone of 324 Silver Street.

Like the Tiffany originals, each stained glass product distributed by the Legacy of Tiffany is custom made; each is an original. Also like the Tiffany product, each Tiffany-styled piece is signed and has a registration number stamped into it. The designer's

Vijon" appears on a small copper label attached to all fixtures either on the inside leaded portion close to the bottom edge or stamped on the crossbar used for hanging the fixture. This assures the purchaser of the quality of the product.

Registration numbers tell the year the piece was made and the identifying number of that piece. Numbers are stamped on crossbars, inside caps and on the edges of windows and panels. A complete registry of all works are permanently kept on file at Vijon Studios. This means that should a piece need to be repaired, the exact size, shape and color of each piece has been recorded for accurate replacement. Also, being marked and individually made, each product is an investment that will increase in value with time.

In addition to the Tiffany-style lamps, many other items may be ordered through Mrs. Malone and her partner, Marie Kellogg. Lamp shades, panels, windows, cabinet doors, mirrors, jewelry boxes, and many unusually beautiful stained glass pieces are displayed at home parties arranged through these area representatives. Custom colors are designed can also be specified.

According to Mrs. Malone, by ordering these beautiful products through the home party plan, 40%-50% can be saved off the regular retail price of these items. To make arrangements for a Legacy of Tiffany home party, contact Mrs. Malone at 786-6750.

Women's Club To Meet

Members of the Agawam Women's Club will meet at the Captain Leonard House, Monday, February 23rd, at 8 p.m.

Guest speaker from the Hampden County Extension Service will speak on "Changes and Stress."

Hospitality hostess will be Shirley Ross assisted by Mrs. Clifford Catchepaugh and Mrs. Bruno Maule.

Legacy Of Tiffany Offers Fine Wares With Mrs. Malone

By Penny Stone

If you've always yearned for a Tiffany stained glass lamp, but found the price somewhat formidable, perhaps you should consider The Legacy of Tiffany. This company specializes in Tiffany-style lamps and stained glass accessories which are made to order at the Vijon Studios in Connecticut.

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MUNICIPAL EVENTS

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TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Monday, February 23
Public Library
7:30 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 24
Superintendent's Chambers
7 p.m.

CITIZENS GOOD GOVT.
Wednesday, February 25
Town Hall
7 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 26
Town Hall
7:30

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Saturday, February 28
Town Hall
2 - 4 p.m.

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"On The Clothesline"



By Penny Stone

Children seem to learn best when the subject being taught appeals to them. Apparently, "how a newspaper is put together" is a subject which appeals to most nine-year-olds.

Students of MRS. ANNA CREAN's fourth grade class at Danahy School were treated to a special career awareness program presented by DIANA WILLARD of the AGAWAM ADVERTISER/NEWS production staff. Diana, who creates and lays out many of the paper's ads and writes periodic articles as well, presented an interesting program to the eager youngsters. By showing the children actual "mechanicals" of unfinished newspaper pages, she was able to illustrate how the various staff people work together to create the weekly, hometown publication.

In addition, the do's and don'ts of article writing were discussed and some very thoughtful questions asked. For example, one boy wanted to know if reporters just sit down at a typewriter and write an article or if they write it all out first...

Each student was given a current issue of the Advertiser/News to take home, and as a vacation assignment, Mrs. Crean asked the children to write a newspaper "article" for possible publication. Watch for samples of these articles on next week's feature page.

Speaking of the Features Page, those who read last week's article about 10-year-old STEVEN KENNEDY and his uphill struggle to achieve can become an active participant in his success by calling his parents at 789-0969 or myself at 786-9144 to volunteer. Volunteers to assist with Steven's daily "patterning" exercises are honestly needed. One hour per week is all that is asked. No experience is necessary and the rewards will enrich your daily life. PLEASE CALL.

Best wishes go out to URSULA O'NEILL of 72 Pheasant Hill Drive from all her friends and neighbors there. Ursula retired last month from Mass. Mutual.

A speedy and complete recovery is wished for WALLY KENYON of Springfield, whose many local friends wish she were still able to bowl with them Monday nights at the Turn-Verein on Garden Street. "Wally" fell recently while roller skating with her 11-year-old daughter and incurred a possibly irreparable injury. After being pushed from behind and landing badly, Wally sustained a broken left wrist, fractured shoulder, and torn ligaments in the hand. Although she presently has no feeling in two of her fingers, we are hopeful that once the cast is removed and therapy can be instituted, she will have full use of her left hand. Keep the faith, Wally!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Agawam High School Principal DAVID THEODOROWICZ. "Mr. T." is in the Springfield Hospital undergoing tests and therapy after suffering a unexpected attack last week. Visitors report he now shows much improvement and is up, walking, and showing some impatience with being cooped up. Our good wishes and hopes for a healthy homecoming, Dave!

Another new baby in town! A beautiful, dark-haired, blue-eyed girl named ALISON REBEKAH was welcomed into the world recently by DAVE & ELLEN RATNER of 60 Corey Street, Agawam. Alison arrived three weeks behind schedule on December 13th, weighing of nine pounds, eleven ounces and measuring 22 inches.

She is the first grandchild of SANCHON & HAROLD RATNER of Longmeadow and EARL & SHIRLEY SMITH of Atlanta, Georgia. Both sets of grandparents are very proud of the new addition to the family. Alison has two great grandmothers who live in Springfield: CARRIE KRAMER and IDA RATNER. Is there a chance that she won't be spoiled?

According to Mom, Alison can handle all the attention. "She has a wonderful disposition, rarely cries, and is very sociable. Until just recently, she used to keep us up until 3 a.m. "talking all night." Apparently, she has just started to sleep through the night and the Ratners are enjoying immensely.

[You are welcome to send items of social or personal interest to Penny Stone at 72 Federal Street (Phone: 786-9144) or to call the newspaper office at 786-7747 to leave a message.]

HCC Opens New Dinner Theatre

"Broadway Gourmet" will be the opening event of the Holyoke Community College Dinner Theatre in the college's newly-opened Campus Center. The event is being provided by the Hotel and Food Management, Music and Theatre Departments to benefit the HCC Summer Music Theatre.

The evening will begin with a sitdown dinner prepared by the Food Management students with a menu which includes beef kabobs and chicken Kiev.

Guests will be entertained by a musical revue of Broadway hits stressing "relationships" - love, marriage, parent-child, etc. - and will include songs from many different shows.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 20th and Saturday, February 21st. Reservations can be made at the college in Room B261 or by calling 538-7000, ext. 408.

Learning Disabilities Assoc. Schedules Meeting

"Poor Me...Why Me...Darn the Luck...What am I really able to do?" will be discussed by Dr. Warren Schumacher of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Center for the Family at UMass, who will be the guest lecturer at the Tuesday, February 24th meeting of the Pioneer Valley Chapter of the Massachusetts Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. The meeting is slated for 7 p.m. in the Eastfield Mall Community Room.

Dr. Schumacher will stress practical skills that can help parents react in different ways to the frustrations of daily family living with disabled children. For further information, call Genevieve O'Reilly at 567-8794 or Dorie Castagna at 567-8244.

Sisters Plan Art Exhibit; Reading

The Sisters of Providence will host a one-woman art exhibit and poetry reading at their Mother House in Holyoke on Sunday, February 22, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The exhibit and reading is open to the public free of charge and will feature the works of Maria Joseph Nace, a Sister of Providence. A multi-media artist, she will exhibit 50 pieces, a select number of which will be available for public purchase.

The poetry reading will begin at 3 p.m., and Sister Maria will read from several poets' works.

Flower Contest



Mrs. Donald Morris of 103 Oak Lane, was named the winner of the free dozen roses on Valentine's Day compliments of Feeding Hills Florists. Rev. Donald Morris of the First Baptist Church turned in the winning Valentine message. Photo by Jack Devine.

W.Spfld. Women's Club Schedules Meeting

The West Springfield Women's Club will meet on February 25th at Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church, Lathrop Street. Invocation will be presented by Mrs. Ernest Cignoni.

Joseph Cotton will demonstrate the Japanese art of Origami, which is cutting and folding paper.

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Paul R. Langlois

Paul R. Langlois

Paul R. Langlois, 68, formerly of Agawam, died in Tampa, Florida, on February 9, 1981. Born in Adams, Massachusetts, the son of Paul and Catherine (MacLaren) Langlois, he was educated in Springfield schools and later earned a B.S. from the University of Maine and an M.Ed. from Springfield College.

Long active in the field of education, his first teaching assignment was for the C.C.C. governmental agency in Maine. In 1936, he was appointed to the Agawam High School faculty, where he taught various courses as well as serving as guidance counselor and assistant principal.

In 1962, he assumed the principal's position at Amherst Regional High School, where he was responsible for the innovation of the "open campus" non-graded philosophy of high school education.

He also served as chairman of the Western Massachusetts High School Headmasters' Selection Committee for its tournament programs. For these and other achievements he won the Kid Gore Award in 1978 for "contributions to athletics."

Active in many other fields, he served as a prime mover in the Springfield area Boy Scouts, and was a director of Camp Sherman, Brimfield, and the first director of Camp Woronoak in Russell. He was a charter member of the Agawam Lions Club spending one term as its president.

Also active in Agawam politics, he was town moderator for several years and an organizer of the Agawam Town Employees' Credit Union, and was its first treasurer. He also acted as chairman of the Parade Committee of the 1955 Agawam Centennial Celebration.

He retired from active work in 1974, but continued to serve as a member of the Board of Appeals, as an administration of the 1980 census in Hampshire County, and as a member of the Pelham Board of Health.

He leaves his wife Elizabeth (Kimball) Langlois of Maine; a daughter Elizabeth Hazen of Virginia; a son Paul M. of Enfield, Connecticut; a sister Janet Acorn of Pittsfield; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service for Mr. Langlois will be held in the United Church of Christ, Pelham, Massachusetts at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 21. A reception at the church will follow the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the "Paul R. Langlois Scholarship Fund," c/o Jack Haffley, Amherst Regional High School, Amherst, MA 01002.

Rita I. Clement

Rita I. (Menochi) Clement, 86, died Sunday, February 15, 1981, in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield Hospital unit.

She lived in Agawam for several years and was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

She leaves her husband, Gerald; two stepbrothers, Leo Menochi of Fall River, and Raymond Menochi of Enfield; and a sister Claire Smith of Midland Park, New Jersey.

Colonial Funeral Chapel in Agawam was in charge of services with burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Fall River.

Louis A. Gamache

Louis A. Gamache, 55, of 21 Sutton Place, died Sunday, February 15, 1981, in Baystate Medical Center, Wesson Unit.

A communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, he was a member of the Local Machinist Union at Hoover Universal and an Army veteran of World War II.

He leaves his wife, Joan (Lenville-Caron) Gamache; a son James of East Longmeadow; three stepsons, Normand Caron, John Caron, and Leonard Caron; a stepdaughter, Anne Kornblum; two brothers, Bernard and Pierre; seven sisters, Sister Regina of Holy Family order, Quebec, Sister Lucy Gamache of Sisters of St. Martha, Washington; Rosamande Desautels, Bernadette Jodoin, Clarice Lavoie, Margerite Gamache, and Theresa Roberts; and three grandchildren.

Curran Jones Funeral Home was in charge of services

Attend Service This Week



We will be running this column weekly to inform you of the hours of services at your house of worship. Activities at your parish hall and other items of interest concerning parish doings may be submitted for publication in our social pages. We encourage parishes to appoint a person to be responsible for publicity. This information is furnished as a public service.

AGAWAM BAPTIST CHURCH

760 Main Street, Agawam
786-7300

Rev. Donald Morris

Sundays: Worship 9:30 a.m.; Jr. Church, 10:00; Church School Classes, 10:30; Jr. High BYF, 7:00 p.m.; Sr. High BYF, Times To Be Announced.

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main Street, Agawam
786-7111

Rev. Floyd Brvan

Rev. Kurt Herber

Sundays: Worship 10:30 a.m.; Church School (crib-6th grade) 10:30, (7th-12th grades) 9:15; Jr. Pilgrim Fellowship, 5:30 p.m., Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship, 6 p.m.

Wednesday evenings: Prayer group meetings 7:30

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill Street, Agawam
786-4174(Church) 786-5278(Parsonage)

Rev. Paul Woodbury, Jr.

Sunday: Service 9:30 a.m.; Church School, 9:30 a.m.

FEEDING HILLS BIBLE CHURCH

18 So. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills
786-1681

Rev. Richard Hoff

Sunday: Morning Service 10:30; Evening Service 7:00; Church School, 10:30

Wednesday evening: Prayer group meetings 7:00

FEEDING HILLS CONG. CHURCH**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

21 No. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills
786-5061

Rev. Wilbur Sadleir

Sunday: Service 10:00 a.m.; Church School 10 a.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH (Roman Catholic)

1059 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
786-8200

Fr. Joseph Flood

Fr. Paul Burns

Fr. Richard Ahern

Masses: Saturdays 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.; Sundays 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH (Rom.Cath.)

Maple Street, Agawam
786-3724

Fr. Joseph Fellin

Masses: Saturdays 4:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Sundays 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
786-9545

Rev. Bruce Benshoff

Sundays: Services 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Church School and nursery at 10:00

Bible Study Group: Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH (Rom.Cath.)

823 Main Street, Agawam
786-8105

Fr. Karl Huller

Fr. Philip Gallerani

Masses: Saturday 4:00 and 6:15 p.m.; Sunday 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30, 11:45 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.

ST. THERESA OF INFANT JESUS CHURCH (Rom.Cath.)

74 Bridge Street, Agawam
786-4451

Fr. Robert Choquette

Masses: Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills
786-2445

Rev. Frank E. Dunn

Sunday services, 10 a.m.; Sunday School 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 19
Card Party
S. H. Church
Parish Center
8 p.m.

February 20 - 22
Jazz Band
Paper Drive
Hollow Pine
Shopping Center
9-4 p.m.

February 22
Agawam UNICO
Pancake Breakfast
St Anthony's Hall
8 a.m. to Noon

February 23
Ag. Women's Club
Leonard House
8 p.m.



CURRAN-JONES FUNERAL HOMES



109 MAIN STREET, WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA.
745 COOPER STREET, AGAWAM, MA.
Telephone 781-7765

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St. John's Parish Center 823 Main St., Agawam, MA
Rt. 159 Tel. 786-8105

February 28

Saturday

9 A.M. - 3 P.M. and 7 - 9 P.M.

March 1

Sunday

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EDITORIAL

School Board's Misuse Of Executive Session Averted

When South West Street resident Daniel Lacienski brought the School Committee before District Attorney Matthew Ryan last summer for alleged violations of the Open Meeting Law, we applauded the action.

It was, for all intents and purposes, the first time anyone had challenged the School Committee's overdone and overused executive session policy, a practice that has been followed for years.

We supported Lacienski's complaints since it came over an issue that we had vigorously criticized: the pay raise granted Superintendent of Schools Louis J. Hebert in July.

Prior to the pay hike, Mr. Hebert had received in June a \$3,000 merit raise behind closed doors which, in our view, was not only undeserved, but a violation of the spirit of the Open Meeting Law.

The 6.5 percent wage hike which followed was voted in executive session which, again, we believed was a violation of both the spirit and letter of the Open Meeting Law. The DA later said there was no violation "in my opinion."

Of course, the two pay raises for the Superintendent sent a torrent of protest through municipal government. Then Acting Town Manager Edward Caba and several councilors said they felt "hood-winked" by the action, especially since it followed the council's passage of the School Department's budget over the 4 percent tax cap.

At Tuesday's School Board meeting, members Venetta Snyder and Richard Borgatti attempted to force through yet another executive session, this time to discuss alleged personality clashes between board members.

Again, we maintain the public should be made aware of such actions by their elected officials.

Fortunately, Board Chairman Walter Balboni and members Rosemary Sandlin, Jessie Fuller and Thomas Ennis refused to go along with their colleagues executive session request, which, according to School Department Attorney John Teahan, was illegal.

Undaunted, Mrs. Synder then attempted to call a closed workshop after the meeting was adjourned and then attempted to intimidate verbally our School Department reporter into leaving so a clandestine meeting could commence.

Again, the board's four members, Mr. Balboni, Mrs. Sandlin, Mrs. Fuller and Mr. Ennis, expressed their intentions not to go along with this proposal, and our reporter stood her constitutionally granted ground.

Executive sessions by the School Committee in the past have been a fact of life despite attempts by longtime members Balboni, Fuller, Ennis to thwart this abused executive privilege.

Mrs. Fuller, as one of her last acts as board chairman in December, refused to acknowledge a request by Mr. Borgatti to enter behind closed doors to discuss personality clashes between the board's membership.

With Tuesday's actions, it seems apparent that the days of conducting public business behind a closed door, as evident in the past, may be used as little as possible. Our research has revealed that Agawam's School Committees have utilized the executive session more than any other in this area.

We look forward to the School Board continuing the non-abuse of executive session in the future.

As for Mrs. Synder's bullying tactics to force a responsible reporter and member of the community from an open public meeting, we can only express shock and disappointment in one of our longtime elected public officials.

Legal Lines

By Attorney Rene Thomas

My friend and I are thinking of going into business as partners. What potential legal liability may I incur as a partner?

One problem of operating a business as a partnership is that the partners are personally liable for debts of the partnership. This means that a creditor of the partnership could force a partner to sell her or his personal assets to pay the business debts of the partnership.

Other legal problems of a partnership center around a partner's liability for torts committed by co-partners and liability for contracts entered into by co-partners. In both situations, you may find you, as a partner, are legally liable for an act of a fellow partner.

Letters to the Editor

Councilors Must 'Get It Together'

To The Editor:

As a taxpayer and employee of our town, I feel compelled to comment on our local government and the shabby state in which it constantly finds itself. It would seem that our councilors are forever forgetting to do the job for which they were hired, and as a result, our town and we, the people, suffer greatly.

Issues at hand have taken a back seat to news media coverage of personality clashes and character assassinations. If allowed to deteriorate at its present pace, the effectiveness of our council manager form of government will be the main question on everyone's mind.

I think it's time that our leaders understood that verbal acrobatics and three-ring activities are for the circus and have no place in our town. I question the motives of councilmen and councilwomen whose names constantly appear in large print throughout our newspapers. I sit and wonder when priorities will be arranged so that the business of running our town will once again be of prime concern. Lastly, I question whose best interest our councilors are serving by constantly being at odds with each other on such pressing business as who should be president, vice-president, and heads of certain committees.

It's time for positive, direct action - the bull must be taken by the horns, and "taking care of business" must become our number one priority. Monster or miracle, Proposition 2½ demands full attention and a concerted effort on all our parts, most especially that of our council.

If we are to survive and prosper, we must be concerned. Concerned and alert enough to know the difference between good responsible government and simply going through the motions. We must impress upon the people we elected that time is running short and nothing lasts forever.

Wayne Macey
North West Street

Tax Topics

By Abbett Tax Service

How Long Must Records Be Retained?

You are required to keep the books and records of your business available at all times for inspection by the Internal Revenue Service. The records must be kept as long as their content may be necessary in the administration of the income tax laws.

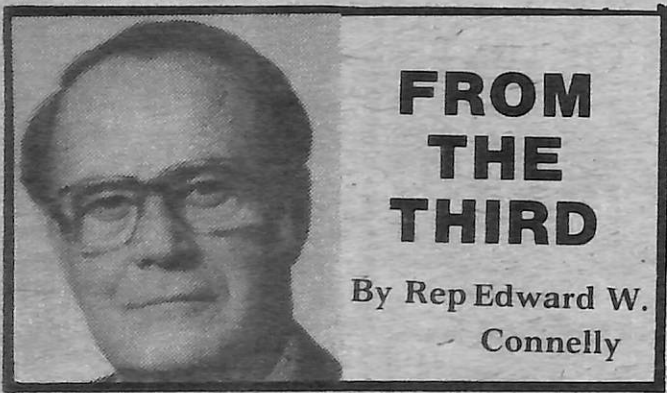
Records supporting items on a tax return should be kept until the statute of limitations for that return runs out. Usually, the federal "statute of limitations" for an income tax return expires three years after the return is due or filed, or two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever occurs later. Records relating to the cost of property should be kept for three years after the sale of that property.

In other words, all the documentation necessary to support the construction or acquisition costs of property which you owned for several years should be retained to support the cost of that asset.

Occasionally, Congress passes laws which affect prior business transactions. If your records can substantiate the timing and the nature of prior transactions, you may be entitled to some tax relief.

Retained copies of your tax returns will help you in preparing your future tax returns and in making computations if you later file a claim for refund. They may also be helpful for the personal representative of your estate. Since the tax return itself, without all the supporting documentation, is not too bulky, I suggest you keep all tax returns for an indefinite period of time.

If you own property or businesses in more than one state, you may want to check the statute of limitations in each state, since some are longer than the federal statute.



FROM THE THIRD

By Rep Edward W. Connelly

A prime concern of taxpayers today is "Too Much Government." One of the basic ingredients for "too much government" is the issuance of mandates upon local and state governments through statute, court decisions, or rules and regulations.

In many cases however, the end results are traced back to promulgation by appointed authority, and those actions and decrees have the same effect as if legislated.

For several years, we have tried, unsuccessfully, to require that such rules and regulations be subject to approval by elected authority - prior to effect. That opportunity arises once again this year and the chances for success seem better than ever before.

We can now document the number of mandates by various categories, i.e., direct order, condition of aid, local acceptance; and the case for legislative oversight is indeed valid. In the state category, 123 mandates are attributable to court decision and rules and regulations. Federal mandates number 58 to the courts and 365 to rules and regulations.

In essence, Federal and Commonwealth mandates are at the core of issues concerned with local government finance. Local government finance equals property tax and its obvious effect on last year's election results.

I believe it is incumbent upon the Legislature to fully fund mandated programs thereby relieving the onerous burden of the property tax.

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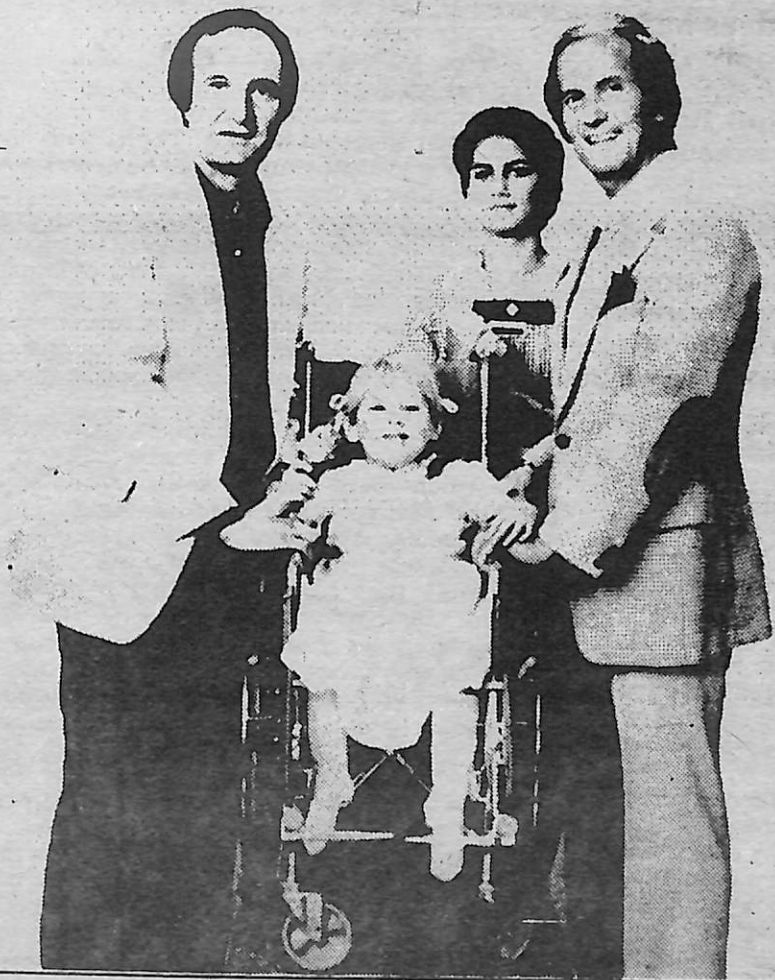
SCHOOL NEWS

Hearts & Flowers At AHS



Officers of Agawam High's Office of Student Affairs Rosemary DiStefano, left, and Lori Acosta, right, present a box of candy to Gina Ferraro, a junior at the school whose many admirers sent her the largest number of carnations during the OSA's Valentine's Day fundraiser. Money raised through the sale of carnations goes toward scholarships. Photo by J. Devine.

Friendly CONES FOR KIDS DAY helps handicapped children



Make a contribution of \$1.00 to the Easter Seal Society by purchasing a special button and receive a FREE regular size ice cream cone at any *Friendly* Restaurant on February 27th.

Pictured with the 1981 National Easter Seal Society Poster Child Colleen Flinn are, Easter Seal Telethon Co-Hosts Don Kirshner and Pat Boone. For further information contact Friendly Public Relations Department at (413) 543-2400

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SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Mon., Feb. 23: Cup of tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, tossed garden salad, chilled pears in syrup, milk

Tues., Feb. 24: Sliced turkey sandwich in roll, buttered carrot coins, steamed rice, orange blossom cake, milk

Wed., Feb. 25: Orange juice, baked hamburger & macaroni, creamy cabbage & carrot salad, Italian bread & butter, peanut butter cookies, milk

Thurs., Feb. 26: Oven roasted chicken, whipped potatoes, buttered niblit corn, bread & butter, chocolate pudding w/topping, milk

Fri, Feb. 27: Cup of beef vegetable soup, fluffernutter sandwich, oven french fries, chilled applesauce, milk

Jr. High Jazz Band Slates Paper Drive

The Agawam Junior High School Jazz Band is sponsoring a townwide paper drive over the weekend of February 20, 21, and 22. Money raised will be used to help fund a contest trip the band plans to take in May.

Papers may be brought to the Hollow Pine Shopping Center on Springfield Street between 9 and 4 o'clock. If anyone is unable to take their papers to that site, please call for pickup 786-7748 before Friday. All town residents' help is needed to enable the band to participate in this important contest.

Library To Present Snoopy, Come Home

On Saturday, February 28th, the Agawam Public Library will offer free three showings of the feature film, *Snoopy, Come Home*. Tickets for either the 10 a.m., 1 or 3 p.m. shows will be given out on a first come-first served basis and may be picked up or reserved by calling the library at 789-1550.

Friendly's Sponsors "Cones For Kids"

Friendly Ice Cream Corporation has announced that it will be serving as national sponsor of the Easter Seal Society's 1981 campaign.

Friendly has initiated a "Cones for Kids" program which it unveiled on January 31 and will continue through February 27. The program offers customers an opportunity to purchase a "Cones for Kids" button for a \$1.00 donation to Easter Seals. On February 27, the customer is then invited to exchange the button for one free regular size ice cream cone of any flavor.

Friendly's public involvement with Easter Seals will be highlighted on national television during the Easter Seal Society's National Telethon which will be hosted by Pat Boone and will be aired on March 28 and 29.

Westfield State Lecture

On Thursday, February 19th, Professor Donald Logan of Emmanuel College, Boston, will deliver a lecture on the Viking impact upon Ireland. Logan is a noted researcher and writer on medieval history and the Reformation with emphasis on the Viking experiences.

The lecture will take place in Wilson Auditorium B at 7:30 p.m.

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AHS Senior Wins Science Award

Agawam High School senior David P. Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hanson of 3 Hendon Drive, Feeding Hills, was named winner of the annual Bausch & Lomb Science Award. This award, a handsome bronze medal, is presented each year to winners at more than 8,500 participating schools throughout the United States and Canada.

"The Bausch & Lomb Science Award is especially significant," explained Principal David Theodorowicz, who made the presentation, "because it recognizes the senior student at our school who has attained the highest scholastic standing in science subjects."

As winner of the award, Hanson is eligible to compete for one of several four-year scholarships at the University of Rochester, New York. Scholarship winners are selected on merit and stipends, based on need, could range up to \$4,500 per year.

Bausch & Lomb, with headquarters in Rochester, New York, is a world-wide manufacturer of vision care products and scientific instruments.

Middle School PAC Newly-Formed

A meeting held recently brought ten parents together to form a Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) at the Agawam Middle School under the direction of Principal Charles L. Kistner.

The function of this council is to increase communication between the school and parents.

The first program the council has proposed is an informational coffee hour to be held Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:15 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Refreshments will be served.

The Guidance Office has been invited to address interested parents about the function of that office. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Homefinder Service Orientation Slated

The Westfield Area Department of Social Service, Homefinding Unit will be conducting orientation sessions for people interested in foster parenting.

The sessions are an introduction to the foster care system, reasons children need temporary homes and ways children can be helped.

There are four sessions: March 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Student Union, Westfield State College. If interested in finding out more about foster parenting, call Pam Ortensi at 562-9681.

Tax Returns The Easy Way!



Members of Agawam High's Accounting Club are once again for the fifth consecutive year preparing short form income tax returns for students and town residents. They charge \$2.00 for students and \$5.00 for adults, and the proceeds go towards scholarships for future accountants. Hard at work above (left to right) are Lisa Hopping, Lisa Asta-Ferrero, Lisa Robinson, and Caren LaCour. Anyone interested in having the club prepare his return may contact advisor Rudy Altobelli at the school. Photo by Jack Devine.

HCC Dean's List

Dr. Philip Campbell, dean of Holyoke Community College, has announced the dean's list for the fall semester at that institution. Several local students are among those who attained a quality point average of 3.0 (B) or better.

The students so honored from Agawam and Feeding Hills are as follows: Cindy Berger, Marsha Bessette, Cynthia Cartello, Jerome Czuprynski, Michelle Fieldstad, Daniel Germano, Andrew Griffen, Michael Jensen, Dean Johnson, Robert Johnson, Thomas Pemberton, Terry Potito, Kara Puskey, Kathleen Raimondi, Timothy Reid, Anthony Rondoletto, Emilia Santaniello, Jerry Sibilia, Brian Thresher, Lori Vogel, and Cynthia Williams.

Laughing Brook Slates Program

"Animals Nobody Loves" will take place on Sunday, February 22, at 1 p.m. with activities centered around snakes, snapping turtles, and other unpopular animals. The program will show participants the interesting, important, and perhaps even beautiful aspects of these creatures. A slide presentation will accompany the program. Admission of \$2.50 covers two family members, and reservations are recommended.

Laughing Brook Education Center is in Hampden.

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SPORTS

Four.....!



Going through the motions in preparation for some beautiful February golfing is Pete Longhi, a 1974 graduate of Agawam High who found the conditions at Oak Ridge Country Club to his liking. Photo by Jack Devine.

Grapples Ready For Tourney

By Steve Berard

After a dismal start with a rash of injuries, Agawam's varsity grapplers put it together to win their last three matches of the season against Ludlow, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow. Even with these three victories, the team failed to reach the 500 mark, but they came close finishing with a 7-8 record.

With the string of victories and the return of injured starters, the local grapplers are confident and psyched for the Western Mass. Tournament this Friday and Saturday, February 20-21.

"We should do a lot better than our record showed," claims senior Tom Kirk. "We're going to surprise a few teams," adds Captain Dario Mercadante.

Mercadante, a top-seeded tournament wrestler, will be sidelined due to illness. Junior Walter Fogg will fill in for Dario. Ten teams will participate in the tournament, in which six Brownies were seeded in the top five spots.

Steve Tetreault seeded second, 115 pound weight class; Tom Kirk, seeded fourth, 141 pound weight class; Dario Mercadante, seeded fourth, 129 pound

weight class; Troy Labreque, seeded fifth, 122 pound weight class; Craig McCarl, seeded fifth, 129 pound weight class; and Keith Mercadante, seeded fifth, 148 pound weight class.

Captain Steve "Tate" Tetreault and fellow senior Tom Kirk are said to have the best chances for nabbing a number one billing.

Kirk, who has been hampered recently by a separated clavical, still plans to wrestle. "I have a shot to do well," he claims.

There was more good news for the townies when Jimmy "The Hulk" Olko returned to the starting line-up after being sidelined practically the whole season with a fractured ankle. Even with the long standing injury, Olko has been seeded sixth for the tournament.

Agawam also picked up Frankie Cavallo to fill the gap in the 100 pound weight class. With just about a full line-up, everything seems to be falling into place for the Agawam unit. Their optimism is expressed by senior Troy La Breque who claims, "A lot of kids will do better than their seeds. Overall, we should do well."



TRACEE TALAVERA is called America's top female gymnast because of her graceful form. At age 14, the 90-pound schoolgirl from Walnut Creek, Calif., is a veteran of seven years of training and competition.

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Girls Hoop Bombed By Hungry Panther Quintet, 58-35

By Debbie Guidi

Agawam enjoyed a dual victory in last week's triangular gymnastics meet versus opponents East Longmeadow and Easthampton.

Agawam finished almost ten points ahead of second place Easthampton with 76.50 to their 67.2, while East Longmeadow was only good enough for third with 54.4 points.

The Brownies took each event except the floor exercises, which were performed along with the bars as the first two events.

Easthampton led the teams in floor exercises with 20.3 points to East Longmeadow's 15.9 and Agawam's 19.8. Suzanne Poirer led the Brownies with a 5.4 on her floor routine, but Easthampton's Shay Fitzgerald received the event's high score of 5.9.

Agawam's Carmella Marzano received an event high of 3.5 points on the bars, which Agawam won with 10.8 points. Easthampton received 8.9 total points and East Longmeadow accumulated 8.5.

At intermission, the Brownies led the meet with 30.6 points, and Easthampton followed closely behind with 29.2, while East Longmeadow had 24.4.

At the vault, Agawam received a team total of 28.2 with Sue Poirer leading with a team high of 7.4. Easthampton earned 26.9 in the event, and East Longmeadow tallied just 19.4 points as all their gymnasts performed squat vaults. Their Lisa Majgier received the maximum 6.0 points that can be awarded for that particular vault.

Agawam placed first at the beam with 17.7 points. Patrice Ross received the meet high score of 5.9, which was also a personal best for her.

Overall, this was a successful meet with Sue Poirer's 5.4 for her floor routine her personal best as was Cindy Fontaine's 6.9 at the vault. All the beam scores were season highs, according to Agawam Coach Laurine Greguoli.

"It was one of our best nights on the beam," Coach Greguoli declared. "In fact, all of our events were really solid, and it was a really good meet for us."

This was the final meet for the three senior team members, Sue Poirer, Patrice Ross, and Carmella Marzano. With this meet, the Brownies closed out their season with a 4-7 record, the most successful season enjoyed by Agawam gymnasts in the past five years.

Gymnasts Enjoy Dual Victory Over EH, EL

By Debbie Guidi

The Agawam High Girl's Varsity basketball squad suffered a disappointing 58-35 loss to Cathedral Tuesday night.

The Brownies lead 10-6 after the first quarter and were behind just 18-16 at half time, but had a bad second half which enabled Cathedral to widen the point margin so successfully.

The Brownies 4 game losing streak could not have come at a more inopportune time, with the tournament beginning next week. Agawam was hoping to win its last three games so that they'd have a good shot at a tournament spot, but has dropped the first two of those important matches. Agawam Coach Karen Fitzgerald doesn't think this completely blocks the team out of the post season tournament picture though. "We've still got one more game. If they take 6 teams for the tournament we might make it," said Mrs. Fitzgerald.

The coach seemed a bit disappointed with her team's 2nd half performance Tuesday. "We only scored two points in the fourth quarter. We went into the third quarter down by two. You don't win ball games that way," Coach Fitzgerald stated.

"We rebounded better than they did, but we couldn't put the ball through the hoop. They outscored us from the floor—they scored an unbelievable percentage from the floor," she added.

Agawam scored an unbelievable percentage from the floor," she added.

Agawam scored on 11 of 23 attempts from the free throw line for 48%.

The top scorer for Agawam was Shari Baldarelli with 14 points. She connected on all 6 of her foul shots. Debbie Cheetham scored 8 points for the Brownies.

With a Friday loss to Chicopee Comp last week, Agawam is 11-6 going into this Friday's important encounter with West Springfield.

Any 13-15 year old girl interested in playing suburban softball may contact Martha at 786-5663 for information.

Sports View



DUAL RACING is a novelty on the Women's Pro Ski tour. It features two downhill racers in side-by-side competition at speeds of more than 60 miles per hour. Backers of the dual format think it could spread to other ski events.



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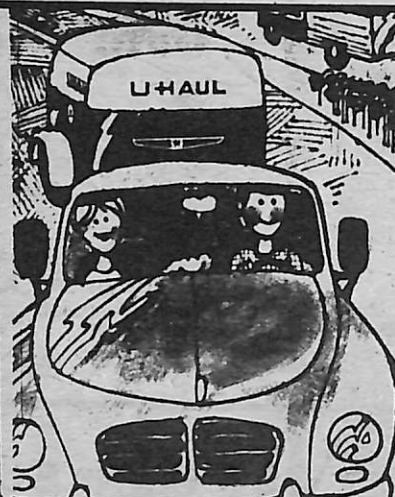
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Sportsman Corner

By Bill Chiba

The DEP in Connecticut has converted the Kensington State Fish Hatchery to the Kensington State Atlantic Salmon Hatchery. Deputy Commissioner Dennis DeCarli of the DEP assures Connecticut trout fishermen that the conversion will not hurt the number of trout stocked annually by the department. The total production of trout in Connecticut has been stabilized in 1980 at approximately 800,000 fish.

The designation of Kensington as a salmon research and production facility will allow Connecticut to become a more equitable partner in the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. This project is a cooperative program among the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fourteen Atlantic salmon from the Connecticut salmon run were held at the Quinebaug Hatchery where 67,500 eggs were spawned last fall. The resulting fry and fry from brood stock salmon, over 140,000, will be reared at Kensington. The fourteen adult salmon, called Kelts after spawning, will be held at Kensington. The salmon will enable the staff to develop a nutritional diet to enhance further production by these fish.

We have to give the Vermont Fish and Game credit for sticking to their guns and maintaining their present game management of the deer herd. They are getting a lot of flack from so-called game biologist who think what is good for the herd in Vermont by the amount of deer they view in the fields.

The combined total for Vermont's 1980 deer hunting seasons was 25,932, a high for Vermont. Breaking it down, we find that legal bucks totalled 9,972, a 51% increase over 1979. This figure was about average for the '70's, though below average for the '60's.

The antlerless total was 14,703. About one percent of these were adult bucks not having legal antlers. Fawns represented 30%, nearly 50-50 male and female. The remaining 10,300 were adult does. The bow and arrow season was down 21% from 1979 with a harvest of 1,257.

The objective of the management program is to cut back the over-wintering to improve the health of the deer by reducing pressure and competition for food on a badly deteriorated winter range. Fewer deer on the winter range curtails malnutrition losses. Does that winter better will produce greater numbers of healthier, more robust fawns in the spring. Given time, last year's results will be rather common place even after average Vermont winters.

The Fish and Game Department does not expect the deer size, fawning rate and antler development to show for at least another five years.

AAA HIGHLIGHTS

8-10 GIRLS

Graphic Printing showed improved offense and solid defense in their win over Russo Construction. Providing the offense were Laurie Lacerte, Denise Porth, Melissa DesRosiers, Jill Goss, and Traci Trudel. Good defense came from Lori DeSimone, Stephanie Milliken, and Christine Letellier.

Russo's coach said his team played an outstanding game.

11-13 GIRLS

Gino's got their first win of the season against the Fish and Game while scoring was kept to a minimum. Missy Copple, Cari Brown, and Fran Depka led the way defensively. The offense was led by Cari Brown, Jill Phillips, and Angie Goucher. Sue Stitzenger helped out when the team got in foul trouble. Lisa Frechette, out with an injured ankle, cheered her team from the bench.

The entire West Springfield Fish and Game team put in a good effort.

8-10 BOYS

St. Theresa's tallied a stunning upset over previously undefeated Laf-Mor Amusements and moved into a tie for first place. Star of the St. Theresa's victory was Paul Poole, who racked up his highest individual game total yet while also playing heads-up defense. Other standouts in the win were Chris Ollari, Ricky Brown, and Jimmy Pirro. David Laudato put in his best game of the season in helping his team topple Laf-Mor.

Giving their all for Laf-Mor were Jimmy Lockwood, David Allen, Henry Kozloski, and Scott Fancy. Laf-Mor and St. Theresa's are now in a three-way tie for first place along with Lunden Construction.

10-12 BOYS

Bobby Aversa, seeing more floor action each week helped the undefeated Agawam Custodians to a 42-13 victory over Suburban Realty Sunday.

Aversa, along with guard Jimmy Hanson and center Brian Tremblay also performed admirably for the winners. Alistar Fairlie was also commended for a good floor game for Custodian.

For Suburban Realty, Mike Egan played a fine game.

13-15 BOYS

Coach Gary Eggleston says his team is progressing each week and he believes his charges are now ready and in waiting to turn over the defeated and defending league champion Polish Club on Sunday afternoon.

Leading Eggleston's DePalma over the luckless Lions Sunday were Bob Eggleston and Tommy Lockwood. Playing well for the Lions were Jeff Losita and Mike Butt.

Eggleston said his squad's improved play in recent weeks gives them an outstanding opportunity to pulloff a major upset of Phil Vecchiarelli's Polish Club.

AAA Statistics

8-10 GIRLS

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Lions Club | 6-0 |
| Elks No. 2174 | 4-2 |
| Graphic Printing | 2-4 |
| Russo Construction | 0-6 |

11-13 GIRLS

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Liquori Brothers | 6-0 |
| E-Con-O Sales | 3-3 |
| W.S. Fish & Game | 2-4 |
| Gino's Package | 1-5 |

8-10 BOYS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| St. Theresa's | 5-1 |
| Lunden Construction | 5-1 |
| Laf-Mor Amusements | 5-1 |
| Elks No. 2174 | 4-2 |
| Christy's Plumbing | 4-2 |
| St. Anthony | 2-4 |
| Abbett Tax | 2-4 |
| Chriscola Farms | 2-4 |
| Pioneer Valley Auto Parts | 1-5 |
| Curran Jones | 0-6 |

10-12 BOYS

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Agawam Custodians | 6-0 |
| McCarthy Tile | 4-2 |
| F. H. Hardware | 4-2 |
| Butcher's Corner | 2-4 |
| Westbank | 2-4 |
| Suburban Realty | 0-6 |

13-15 BOYS

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Polish Club | 6-0 |
| Associated Air Freight | 3-3 |
| DePalma | 3-3 |
| Village Pkg. Store | 3-3 |
| Village Lounge | 2-4 |
| Lions | 1-5 |

YMCA Schedules Youth Programs

The Springfield YMCA will be starting its third term of instructional youth programs the week of February 23. Classes are scheduled for karate, judo, crafts, woodworking, dance, gymnastics, and Saturday magical trips.

The classes are designed for specialized instruction in each of these areas and development of specific skills. Call the YMCA Youth Services at 739-6951, ext. 253 for more information.

Camp Weber, the Y's day camp operated in West Springfield, is seeking motivated people to work in the outdoors with youth between the ages of 3 and 16.

Applications for the following positions are available: nature director, arts and crafts director, secretary, pre-school director, wilderness adventure counselor and general camp counselors for boys and girls aged 6-12.

Forms may be picked up at the Springfield YMCA, 275 Chestnut Street. Any questions may be directed to T. Scott Cook at 739-6951, ext. 256.

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If there's one thing you should know by now it's that if you suffer from low back pains, or if you can't get comfortable at night and are bothered by insomnia, or if you ladies are bothered with post-pregnancy back pains, or if you've sustained a back injury on the job or in your car . . .

For heaven's sake do something about it.

And do it the sooner the better. It's just tragic how some people let these discomforts go on. Backache bravely simply adds to the problem when immediate and effective care is required.

And be alert to the early signs of backache problems. Nature's warning of trouble may be no more than a "catch" in the back or a tight feeling in the hips and legs. Heed that warning.

Make no mistake about it. Your best insurance against back surgery or lifelong spinal problems is early and appropriate care.

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Chiropractor

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Hockey Parents Slate Breakfast

The Agawam High School Parents Association will hold its Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 1st, at the Middle School cafeteria with continuous servings from 8 a.m. to noon.

Tickets can be purchased from any member of the parents association or the hockey team, both varsity and junior varsity. Tickets will be available at the door.

Proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund. Each graduating senior will receive a \$125 scholarship if they continue in some type of further education. Tickets are \$1.50 per person, and the Lions Club is co-sponsoring this event.

The Hockey Parents Association will also have trucks parked outside the Middle School for those people who would like to donate their papers or aluminum cans.

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|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 15 | 22,500 | 23,240 | 45,740 |
| 20 | 30,000 | 48,242 | 78,242 |
| 25 | 37,500 | 89,498 | 126,998 |
| 30 | 45,000 | 155,134 | 200,134 |

Figures are based on the maximum deposit of \$1,500.00 a year invested in an account earning 8% annual interest with an effective annual yield of 8.45%. Interest is compounded daily and paid quarterly.

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